

Gonzalez's axiom: If you can't lick it, ignore it



By Armand N. Nocum

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Hong Kong's leader resigns after 8 turbulent years

Friday, March 11, 2005 • 36 pages

Was it cyanide or rat poison in cassava?



Mass burial for Bohol kids

GMA visits Mabini, declares state of calamity in town

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

MABINI, Bohol—The whole town wept as it started to bury its angels.

"There is no one among us here who is happy," Mayor Stephen Rances declared in his brief eulogy before 12 coffins inside the tiny chapel of Barangay San Jose, a tightly-knit farming community of 318 households.





Barbers accused of diverting relief goods

Ex-senator laughs off charge: It happened 'too long ago'

Population bill fight turns nasty

BIR trains guns on celebrities, sues columnist

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Gov't to take title to Marcos assets



Solon says lack of judges adds to graft problem

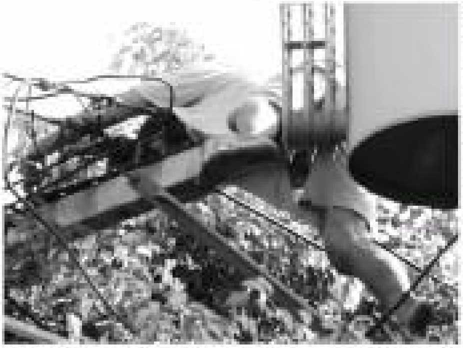
Proposed water use tax draws protest

METRO

SUERTRES · SIX DIGIT · EZ2 · SUPERLOTTO 6/49 ₱40,018,085.10 · SWEEPSTAKES ₱100,000.00

Bodies of 2 rescuers who died in Pasig found; family in distress

Carless days ahead for Marikina



Studes will miss street food vendors with ban

Electric fans lead causes of fire

Parañaque blaze

Syndicate selling fake stocks busted

Police want terrorist assets put in freezer

Proposed antiterror provision

Taguig village leader killed by gunman



10 Abu suspects killed in fresh fighting

JOLO, Sulu—Up to 10 suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed as violence flared up anew in at least two towns here beginning Tuesday afternoon, the military said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, Southern Command chief, said that yesterday alone, five bandits were killed while five others were captured in separate clashes in [illegible] and [illegible] towns.

He said the first clash [illegible] was triggered by the mopping up operation against the Abu Sayyaf.

[illegible]

6 wounded

Aside from killing the suspects and capturing five others, Braganza said the Marines wounded at least six Abu Sayyaf gunmen and recovered five firearms, including a grenade launcher.

No casualties on the government side were reported.

[illegible]

It was the second heavy fire-fight in [illegible] between soldiers and the bandit group.

[illegible]

2 battalions

[illegible]

"I have already dispatched two more battalions in the area," he said.

[illegible]

"We expect more encounters as the local terrorists along with some Misuari followers have split[illegible]," Braganza said.

[illegible]

SPORTS

Pacquiao's 'Manila Ice' weapon is a right hook

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—A day after deceiving the Mexican media, trainer Freddie Roach yesterday decided to uncover the secret weapon which Manny Pacquiao hopes to unleash in his showdown against Mexico's Erik Morales.



Oddsmakers pick Pacquiao to win

Another Bayan leader killed

[illegible]

Political detainee

[illegible]

Work-related

[illegible]

Torture

[illegible]

Military blamed

[illegible]

DFA advises calm in Tarongoy case

[illegible]

Magdalo Group mutineers oust 2 trial officers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

[illegible]

Corrections

[illegible]

Juvic key to Razon's fund support



PAGUNSAN



RAZON



GOMEZ

Shocked

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

Witnesses reveal Garcia deposits



Only 50¢ oil price increase a week—Palace

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

Animals' best friend cited

3 groups said to be interested in Naia terminal

The Daily Gospel

Supreme Court Doctrines

Don't call him Mexican Assassin, please

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

2 eagles lift Saragoza past Pagunsan by 1

CJH Manor shows way in Corporate Cup golf



Barako, Hotdogs shoot for No. 2

The WORLD

Italy PM disputes US version of Iraq shooting of hostage

AP

China spurns US on antisecession law

AP

Brutal Basayev now face of Chechen separatism after moderate's death



PICTURE taken June 17, 1995 shows Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev standing among hostages in the hospital of Budennovsk.

AFP

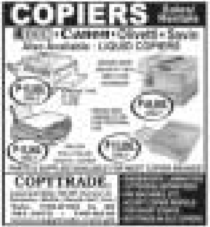
CBS' Dan Rather signs off

AP

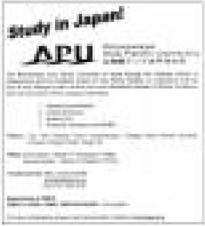
'Forgotten' crises don't get world's attention

Top 10 'forgotten emergencies' deserving more focus









Suns shade starless Spurs; Nets prevail



Donguines leads La Union tilt

C. Lhuillier backs RP 5

San Andres rules moto

SPORTSWATCH

Petron Ladies Beach Volley under way

Negros booters gain finals

Rip Laguna in semis, see title showdown with NCR



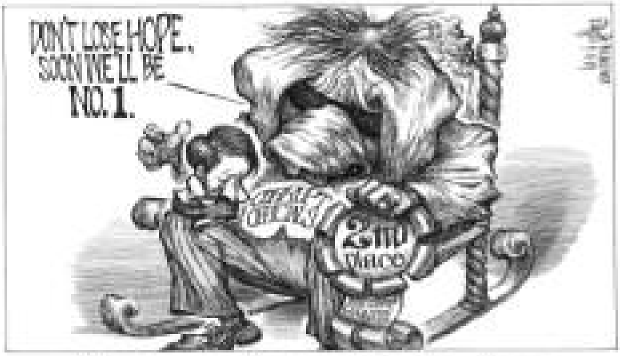


17 qualifiers mix it up in MF finals

GCAP derby features 60 fights at LPC

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



Starving the corrupt

EDITORIAL

The never-ending search for happiness

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Conscientious objectors and missed conceptions

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

Be kind to 'sinners'

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

Suffragettes and commanders

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

More than the right to vote

Communists

Martial law

Faces of women in the tsunami

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Again, the lesser evil

COMMENTARY

Dr. Mingming Padilla

For as long as self-interest rules our political life, we will repeatedly be left with nothing better than the lesser evil instead of the greater good

Respect rights of 'riles' residents

LETTERS

Not Christian

The more serious tragedy in Valentine's Day bombings

Being No. 2 in corruption

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

On population control

Across the NATION

American irrigation exec blames NIA, DoF for delayed taxes

[illegible]

House asked to probe Batangas 'Juetengate'

[illegible]

MAYOR'S ORDER

Alcohol distillery closed due to pollution

[illegible]

Vegetable traders assail gov't lack of toughness vs smuggling



PANAGBENGA RITUAL

Iloilo water rationing starts

Lack of funds derails Panguil Bridge project

SPORTS

Last Olympic coach wishes Chot success



Epson Cup 2 leveling sessions up

Eala clarifies Jawo 'snub'

CLEAN LIVING



GMA terminates ₱655-M Agusan project of Erap





Govs' group urges more logical VAT

Roundup

Video games limit sought

Burning of rice husks scored

New board member installed

Mass burial for Bohol kids

5 candles

GMA visit

IN THE KNOW

Funeral Mass

Procession

LIST OF FATALITIES

Was it cyanide or rat poison in cassava?



Pesticide?

Insecticide?

Precaution

Barbers accused of diverting relief goods

Only politician on list

Gonzalez's axiom: If you can't lick it, ignore it

Unfair

Humiliating

Ironic

BIR trains guns on celebrities…

Fraud

Bonus treatment

Predictive accounting



MORE THAN A CALL CENTER

Hong Kong's leader resigns after 8 years …

Loss of confidence

Donald Tsang

Population bill fight …

Caught in crossfire

Open communication

'The Lord's sign'

BUSINESS

Peso continues rally, hits 54.15:$1

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET



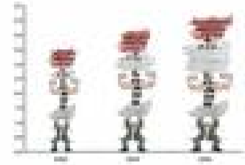
Jan. exports rebound, post 15.4% growth

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

RP outstanding debt

(2002 to 2004, in trillion pesos)



Gov't to limit foreign borrowings to $4B

Singapore firm, Metro Alliance plan to reopen petrochem plant

Jan. exports . . .

Eclipsing the Sun, circling the Globe

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

[illegible]

The GMA telenovela

[illegible]

Money-go-round

[illegible]

Heard through the grapevine

[illegible]

Smart 25/8 plan to prevent network traffic

Rural women need stronger voice

COMMENTARY

Background

Statement

Some issues

Rural Women Congress

DA role

Japanese lender asks gov't to start LRT-1 expansion

Peso continues rally . . .

San Miguel extends bid for Australia's NatFoods

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Investors snap up RP telco stocks

By Clarissa S. Batino

Nokia targets new markets

Asian stocks hit by inflation worry

Oil prices ease

China import growth falls after cooling measures



APC sells Philcom

By Elizabeth L. Sandoval

BUSINESS

Investors anxious over RP revenue measures

By Doris C. Dumlao

MACTAN Island—Foreign and local investors may be upbeat over economic prospects in the Philippines, but they are still anxious on whether Malacañang can deliver on its commitment that the vital tax reforms will sail through Congress.

Of all the tax reforms, the increase of the value added tax (VAT) is seen as the pivotal measure.

During a two-day Euromoney Philippine Investment Conference here attended by about 400 participants, businessmen and investors generally shared the optimism of government economic managers that the country could hurdle its fiscal woes.

"There is increasing evidence that the outlook for the Philippines is better than it has been for years, and that the progress the Republic has made, in the face of so much adversity, is being more broadly recognized by international investors around the world," said Rodney Ward, chair of leading investment bank UBS Asia.

Also, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima recognized that a lot was at stake on the VAT bill dragging up in Congress.

He said the passage of a law that would meet revenue objectives—which meant raising the rate from 10 to 12 percent and expanding its coverage—would be the catalyst for a "bull run" of foreign investments.

During her keynote address, President Macapagal-Arroyo herself assured the businessmen that "Congress will deliver."

Chris McIntosh of Hong Kong-based Standard Life Investments said he was convinced that the government was doing its best, but said its track record would have to be strengthened.

"If you can not deliver, then don't promise, and the markets will be patient," McIntosh said. "If you can deliver then market will reward you."

Ayala Corp. CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II said: "Net inflows are coming ... the challenge is for the private sector to translate inflows to capital growth for long term projects."

Trade Secretary Juan Santos had something similar to say when he said that, amid the resurgence of investor confidence on the country, the challenge was to sustain this interest.

Santos said the government was working to address the remaining blocks to more investments, such as improving infrastructure and lowering the cost of doing business.

Palace urged to carry out fiscal reforms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is urging the government to carry out right away the implementation of its fiscal reform programs.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the Arroyo administration should frontload the programs and have all of them implemented within the year to keep the country prepared for "external shocks."

The BSP chief cited the warnings of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank that oil prices might again increase due to tight demand and supply disruptions, and that the global economy would slow down next year.

The increase in oil prices have a strong adverse impact on inflation as well as on movements of the peso, while the decline in global economic activity would hurt the Philippine export sector, he said.

The programs that Buenaventura said should be fast-tracked include the revenue-raising measures—both legislative and administrative—that have been lined up by the Arroyo administration to ease the budget deficit, the selling of assets of the National Power Corp., and the increase in generation rates by the National Power Corp.

The government said it needs P80 billion in additional taxes every year over the medium term to achieve its zero-budget deficit target by 2010.

But the BSP, echoing calls from the country's foreign lenders, said the budget consolidation program should be accelerated. It is only when the budget deficit is wiped out that the government could start reducing its debts, the BSP said.

The government has acknowledged that solving its fiscal problems was crucial to attaining a sustainable economic growth.

So far, Buenaventura said, the programs government had implemented could not yet help reduce its debts, pegged at P3.8 trillion as of end-December last year.

This is because, the additional revenues to be collected from the present programs can only be used to reduce the deficit, he said.

Consortium eyes Palawan oil contract

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CONSORTIUM composed of Shell Philippines Exploration BV, South China Resources Inc. and the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Corp. (Kufpec) has applied for a contract to explore for oil and gas in northeast Palawan.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez yesterday confirmed receipt of the application to convert South China's Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract 99 over northeast Palawan into a service contract.

The contract will cover a 11,220-square-kilometer area and will involve the drilling of additional wells to test the field's potential to produce oil or gas.

This service contract application was the first for the Sulu Sea side of Palawan, he said.

Existing service contracts cover areas on the other side, near the South China Sea.

Perez said the application was significant as it was the second project of Kufpec.

The first was Service Contract No. 38 which covers the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project, also in Palawan.

"This could mean that they're [Shell Group] coming back again. This contract is big in the sense that the consortium has a Middle Eastern partner," Perez told reporters yesterday.

South China last year chose to convert GSEC 99 into a service contract.

On the first exploration phase covering 36 months, the consortium would acquire and process 250 square kilometers of 3D seismic data and 1,000 line-kilometers of 2D seismic data, said DOE oil and gas division head Ismael Ocampo in a presentation posted at the DOE's official website.

After the data acquisition, the group will evaluate the block and proceed with the drilling of an exploration or appraisal well in the succeeding phases of the contract.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the DOE to achieve for the country a 60-percent energy self-sufficiency level by 2010.

To help reach this goal, the DOE and other key energy-related agencies of the government are coming up with ways to exploit the country's indigenous energy resources, including oil and gas.

LIFESTYLE

Editor Cheche Bernal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY





Surviving Milan

Thanks to the Ole Henriksen skincare line, the fashion week proves less daunting for the skin



By Kitty Go
Coordinator

As soon as I got into London after two weeks in the French Alps, my skin looked exactly like I had been skiing... downhill.

[illegible]

Renewing

[illegible]

Invigorating

[illegible]

Refining

[illegible]

Soothing

[illegible]









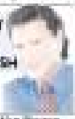




All white and bubbly birthday bash

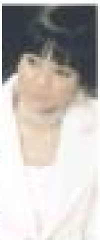
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache













Book for all seasons







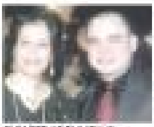
Cell glam



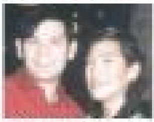






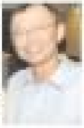


















SHEER [illegible] help make Sheer Transformation Renewing Creme a must-have beauty treatment.

RESCUE [illegible]

Surviving Milan



[illegible]

Milan through rain, snow or both. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

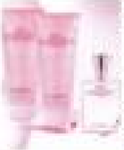
Email the author at [illegible]



INVITATION to Pucci show of its Autumn/Winter Collection during the recent 2005-2006 Milan Fashion Week, and (inset) a curve showing Pucci's unmistakable design.



LANCÔME [illegible] Le Rouge Absolu. [illegible]



A PINK, fresh, vibrant and luminous fragrance, [illegible]

Say no to frizzy hair



LONDON celebrity hairstylist Lee Stafford

SUMMER means fun in the sun, but the hot dry season can also wreak havoc to your hair. As the temperature rises, so does the chance of having frizzy, hard-to-control hair that will leave you spending more time counting [illegible] bad hair days rather than enjoying the great outdoors.

London-based celebrity hairstylist Lee Stafford [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lee Stafford is available exclusively at [illegible]



POKER Straight Detanglifier

Quality service without the high price tag



MAKEOVER 911

ONE OF my biggest thrills is discovering something great which comes at a very reasonable price tag.

Hair removal

Nails



TENETTE Ocampo-Payot and the author

Haircut and styling



NU Colour Eye Makeup Remover

Total eye makeup remover

LIFESTYLE



Why women deny they've had 'lipo'

Fake-body sleuthing is an interesting pastime

LIFE-STYLED



Thelma Sioson San Juan

WHILE society columnists people-watch, I must confess, I watch lipo'd people. Let's just say I decided to specialize, to segmentize the people-watched market, to go niche. I love to guess if he or she (mostly she) has undergone liposuction or body sculpture—and I have a good batting average. It's an interesting skill.

I wouldn't have gotten so much kick from ferreting out the lipo'd bodies if only women didn't hide the fact that they've had liposuction or had something done to their bodies or faces. In fact, many do. That's what's interesting and puzzling about the cosmetic surgery phenomenon these days. Why do people, especially women, still feel the need to hide it? While one shouldn't exactly flaunt it, one doesn't have to lie either.

You'd think that given Vicki Belo's marketing barrage and how this driven woman has almost single-handedly put cosmetic surgery, particularly liposuction and, to a certain extent, breast augmentation, into the mainstream of beauty preoccupation, you'd think people would be more forthcoming about it, and not feel that it's something they should be ashamed of. Not.

One of the more curious things about our culture and social ways is how we use weight commentary as some sort of greeting. Ever noticed how you say hi, then, in the next breath, say, "You've lost weight!" Then the other party would demur, "No, I gained in fact. It's just I'm in black." This goes on and on, with the greetings snowballing into diets and carbs and proteins. And that is just a way of saying hello.

Indeed (foreigners must find it odd, if not funny) how we're so naturally comment about each other's weight and looks as a way of greeting or breaking the ice. To us Filipinos, small talk is anatomy talk. It's invariably a dissection or analysis of one's bilbil. That's social grooming or kamustahan, to us.

And in our culture, we go about prying into each other's body imperfections as if it were our business, which is why one would get asked if one has had lipo or not. Abetting this is the compulsion of some celebrities to announce their lipo or other cosmetic procedures—as their end of the ex-deal free surgery for promotion.

I try to check this urge myself—of commenting on the 'pooches'/ bilbil and all, the



BEFORE



AFTER

Hair rebonding made easy—and cheap

THERADERM has pioneered a world-class hair rebonding system called Ahglow Hairstrait to meet market needs.

Ahglow is becoming the favorite of salon owners and stylists because it is affordable and effective. The traditional hair straightening and rebonding system uses lye, which makes the hair brittle and is also dangerous.

The Ahglow system has all the right products for the rebonding procedure.

The scented Hairstrait Straightening Cream softens and relaxes the hair. It is mild and gentle on the hair. Hairstrait Neutralizer Cream re-links and rebonds broken hair and stabilizes and maintains the straightened hair.

Hair is conditioned with the Keratin Hair Protek that repairs damaged hair and protects the hair during the ironing process. The Keratin Reconstructor Conditioner provides intensive conditioning treatment after straightening and neutralizing.

John Lansang, president of Theraderm, said they hoped that with Ahglow the price of hair rebonding would fall without compromising safety and quality.

Theraderm products are also exported to other countries in Asia, North America and Africa.

Ahglow has been exhibited in Texas, United States; Thailand and Saudi Arabia. Exclusive distributorship agreements have been forged with dealers in Africa and Latin America.

Ahglow is available at all Hortaleza outlets and major distributors nationwide. Call 6319764.

Why women deny they've had 'lipo'

From page C1

second I say hi. It takes some effort, I must confess. So now, my tendency is, after the beso-beso, I find my eyes wandering to the person's bilbil, thighs, arms. You can't help but notice—from size 12 or 14, one went down to size 6 or 4! And that's diet?

I don't think so. How can one spot the lipo'd body? I asked Dr. Belo herself, and she said, "No fat at all." Indeed when a body goes from fat, plump or obese, to bone-tight, that could only be liposuction or body sculpture. And that shows especially on the thighs and arms. The thighs come out almost as streamlined as a 16-year-old's. On a 40 plus-year-old's body? Not natural, not even if one lived in the gym. And not even on a 30 plus-year-old. Or a pot belly that suddenly goes flat as a board in a tuck-in. Not natural.

Liposuction has become a popular procedure. So many people have availed themselves of it, almost across social classes. (The non-affluent ones, I was told, resort to it because they need the svelte body for their entertainment jobs abroad.) In the lifestyle circle, I'd hazard a ratio: Say five out of 10 people we meet have had it, and only one—or less than one—is candid enough to admit it.

Why the secrecy? That remains a puzzle. The cosmetic surgery/beauty industry must have grown by leaps and bounds in this country. It's hard to peg the amount, income tax statements being, shall we say, purely discretionary. Yet people are wont to deny their surgical experience. Why can't they admit it? That's on one hand. And on the other, really, it's none of our business.

In the meantime, however, the guessing game is turning into an interesting sport at parties.



DR. Vicki Belo

Martha gains

Equally interesting is that shares of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia went up nearly threefold after she had been sentenced in July and last week after she was released and put on house arrest.

According to Asian Wall Street Journal, the curious thing is, Stewart, who owns more than 29 million shares, the rise amounted to about $600 million. However, the advertising in her magazines has yet to kick in. But still, what all this says is that Martha Stewart Living is so alive.

Perhaps this is because the brand meets the basics. It's still a good magazine.

Red-carpet tidbit

There was much ado that Oscar winner **Hilary Swank** wore a Guy Laroche instead of a Calvin Klein, which has paid her last year as the image model for underwear of the Calvin Klein Choice. Fashion-watchers called it a "snub." The best actress, however, merely said that her switch to the navy-blue Guy Laroche was all because she didn't want to feel chilly that night.

E-mail the author at tsmjuan@link.com.ph